

## JAPAN ADMITS MARCUS ISLAND IS AMERICA'S

**State Department Receives Information That Tokyo Government Disclaims Sovereignty and Concedes Fishermen Are Nomads.**

If the news received by W. C. Peacock from Colonel Thomas Fitch in the Peking's mail proves authentic, the United States may again assume sovereignty over Marcus Island, and the Marcus Island Development Company will take steps to further exploit the resources of the much talked of island.

According to the information conveyed to Senator Thurston by the State Department at Washington Japan has receded from her position in regard to the islands and now concedes that the Jap fishermen there are nomadic and will deport them if the United States government so requests. It is further intimated that Japan is ready to pay reasonable damages for the loss caused by the refusal of the marines to allow the Julia E. Whalen scientists to make required examinations of the guano deposits.

The following extract from the letter of Colonel Fitch, who, in company with Senator Thurston, went to Washington to present the matter to Secretary Hay, tells the story:

"The Japanese government has disclaimed sovereignty over Marcus Island, and concedes that the Jap fishermen there are nomads.

"It will deport them, probably, if our government insists upon it; and it is willing to pay a reasonable indemnity to the amount of the actual damage done by excluding the Whalen and crew, probably \$10,000.

"It will take several months to clear everything through the diplomatic channels, but the result is as stated.

"This decision was made by the Imperial Government in Tokyo a few weeks ago, and was communicated by the State Department to Senator Thurston this morning."

The letter from Colonel Fitch to Mr. Peacock is dated at Washington, December 16, though the news dispatches have brought no information concerning the matter.

Mr. Peacock, when seen yesterday, stated that the letter gave all the information that he had. "As to my future plans," said Mr. Peacock, "they have not been determined upon as yet. Nothing will be done until the return of Mr. Fitch from Washington, which will be in about six weeks."

Marcus Island was discovered by Captain Rosehill, in 1889, but it was only about a year ago that the State department recognized his claim to it upon the filing of a \$50,000 bond. The Marcus Island Development Company was organized to exploit the guano deposits of the island, with W. C. Peacock and Thomas Fitch as the principal stockholders. Last July an expedition was fitted up under command of Captain Rosehill to visit the island and, with the aid of two scientists, ascertain the value and extent of the guano deposits. Upon arrival off Marcus Island, the little party was intercepted by a detachment of marines from the Japanese warship Kasagi, and only a few of the men were allowed to land from the Whalen at a time. It was impossible, therefore, to make the necessary investigations, and the Julia E. Whalen returned to Honolulu, and has since been sold to a company which is now operating the schooner between Hilo and Honolulu.

A claim was then made upon Japan for damages for the action of its government and placed in the hands of the State Department at Washington. A demand was also made upon the Japanese government for the possession of the island, in default of which, a large indemnity was asked. Though Colonel Fitch does not so state in his letters, the memorial of the Marcus Island company was probably turned over to the Japanese minister by Secretary Hay, with the result as noted in Mr. Fitch's letter.

If Japan finally grants the demand of the Honolulu people for the possession of the island, steps will probably be taken to develop the guano deposits.

## CITY OF OCOS SLOWLY SINKING INTO THE SEA

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 4.—A Central American steamer arriving today brings further news of the terrible results of the volcanic eruptions in Central America and today's advices would indicate that the celebrated old seaport of Ocos, Guatemala, will shortly be a city of the past. The city is now sinking into the sea. The inhabitants have been panic stricken and are abandoning the town, leaving nearly all of their personal property to the waves that have even now covered up many of the piers of the port.

Ocos is but a few miles to the westward of the famous Santa Maria volcano, and in fact the cone of the volcano can be seen from the city. When that volcano devastated the whole country side and caused such a tremendous loss of life recently many of the inhabitants fled to the ports of Ocos and Champerico which are but a few miles apart.

Ocos is the terminus of a railway which runs up through the coffee districts. The port is situated at the junction of the mouths of the rivers Navango and Tilapa, and in order for the fleeing inhabitants to get away from the town they must either take steamer or a train which, if the railroad is in operation at all, would carry them through the devastated country.

The population of Ocos and the two large provinces of which it is the main port, is about 200,000.

## BISHOP OF PANOPOLIS PASSES AWAY AT MISSION



The Late Gulstan F. Ropert, Bishop of Panopolis.

After hovering between life and death for more than a month the Right Reverend Gulstan F. Ropert, Bishop of Panopolis and vicar Apostolic of the Catholic Mission in the Hawaiian Islands, died last night at 10:20 o'clock at the Mission House. His death had been expected since 6 o'clock at which time the frail prelate was

(Continued on Page 7.)

## PERKINS WILL HAVE OPPOSITION

[SPECIAL ASSOCIATED PRESS CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.]

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 4.—The session of the California legislature commences tomorrow. There is a warm contest on for speaker of the Assembly. The



SENATOR GEO. C. PERKINS.

candidates are F. E. Dunlop, of Stockton, and A. G. Fisk, of San Francisco.

A successor to Senator Perkins is to be elected by this legislature. Senator Perkins has a majority of the hold-over senators, but will have determined opposition. Irving M. Scott is among the candidates for his seat.

Assemblyman Walker today announced that he had been offered \$1500 and a government position to vote against Senator Perkins.

Governor Pardee will be inaugurated Wednesday.

## CARACAS IN STATE OF PANIC

[SPECIAL ASSOCIATED PRESS CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.]

WILLEMSTAD, Island of Curacao, Jan. 4.—There was a financial panic at Caracas yesterday afternoon.

A large number of small traders and private depositors went together to the office of the Bank of Venezuela, for the purpose of exchanging notes of the bank for silver. The bank refused to exchange more than two dollars worth of notes for any one person, and at 4 o'clock closed its doors.

The leading firms at Caracas, notwithstanding the present situation, have not presented any notes for redemption, as they are all interested in supporting the bank.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The Herald says: A cipher message, received directly from Venezuela, indicates that President Castro either has abdicated or is about to abdicate his post as the executive of the Venezuelan government.

Revolutionists now menace Caracas and the situation is desperate.

## MORGAN WANTS ROUTE FIXED AT NICARAGUA

**Senate Will Be Asked to Declare That Negotiations With Colombia Should Be Declared Off and the Northern Route Selected.**

[SPECIAL ASSOCIATED PRESS TO THE ADVERTISER.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—In the Senate tomorrow Senator Morgan will introduce a resolution directing the Executive Department to cease negotiations with Colombia for right of way for the Isthmian Canal and to close agreements with Costa Rica and Nicaragua, for the construction of the canal by the Nicaragua route.

While Senator Morgan has all along been an advocate of the Nicaragua route for the construction of the big ditch, his action in introducing the above resolution in the Senate tomorrow is probably a measure calculated to either bring irresponsible Colombia to time or to altogether clear the French Panama canal purchase project from the boards.

Ever since Congress passed the Canal bill negotiations have been in progress with the South American republic in an effort to put through a treaty by which Colombia would agree to cede to the United States a strip of land six miles wide, clear across the isthmus for the purpose of constructing the canal, using some old workings of the Panama Canal Company.

The following section of the Canal Bill authorized the treaty:

Section 1. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to acquire, for and on behalf of the United States, at a cost not exceeding \$40,000,000, all of the rights, privileges, franchises, concessions, grants of land, right of way, unfinished work plants and other property, real, personal and mixed, of every name and nature, owned by the New Panama Canal Company of France on the Isthmus of Panama, and all its maps, plans, drawings, records on the Isthmus of Panama and in Paris, including all the capital stock, not less, however, than 68,863 shares of the Panama Railroad Company, owned by or held for the use of said canal company, provided a satisfactory title to all of said property can be obtained.

The amount to have been paid Colombia for the relinquishment of its rights over this territory was \$7,000,000. In addition to this Colombia was to have received an annuity at the end of fourteen years. This latter portion of the proposed treaty caused the hitch. Colombia stuck out for an annual rental of \$600,000. Secretary Hay considered that \$100,000 a year would amply meet the case. Both sides were firm in this decision for sometime. In the meantime the Colombian revolution put matters in an unsatisfactory way.

Finally on November 28th Minister Concha received instruction from his government to sign the treaty bearing upon the canal territory as outlined by Secretary Hay, without stipulation. But Concha would not do this. He rose above his country for the occasion and refused to sign unless that \$600,000 rental clause was inserted. The question of sovereignty over the canal zone was settled at the outset by Colombia agreeing to a clause in the proposed treaty which would give a lease to the United States for 100 years which would be renewable at Uncle Sam's pleasure.

When Concha refused to sign the treaty Washington became a gory. Concha was left out of the negotiations and dealings were had with Colombia direct through Minister Hart at Bogota.

Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge d'affaires in Washington, was then authorized by his government to complete the treaty negotiations, but the treaty is still hung up owing to the matter of rental.

## PORTO RICAN OFFICIALS ARRESTED FOR FRAUDS

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.]

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Jan. 4.—The scandals in the government culminated yesterday in the arrest of Mayor Egozene, on a charge of destroying the records of the city.

As soon as the news spread that the mayor was to be taken in custody at once there was a gathering of his friends and sympathizers, and the police had their hands full to disperse the mob which filled the streets. In the charges on the crowds many shots were fired, and although several persons were hit none were killed.

Immediately following the arrest of the mayor, a number of other officials were arrested. It is now said that the shortages of the local officers of the government will reach \$43,000.